

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kim C. Hardee

Serial No. 10/776,103

Filed: February 11, 2004

For: SENSE AMPLIFIER POWER-GATING TECHNIQUE  
FOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT MEMORY DEVICES AND  
THOSE DEVICES INCORPORATING EMBEDDED  
DYNAMIC RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY (DRAM)

Confirmation No.: 2833

Examiner: Hoang, Huan

Art Unit: 2827

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BASED ON AN  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

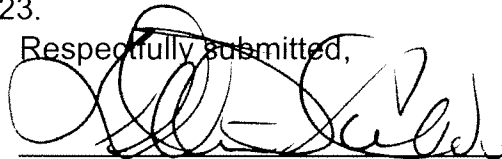
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 the Examiner may wish to consider the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A. In submitting these references for the Examiner's consideration, no representation is made or implied that the references are or are not material to the examination of the application. The Examiner is encouraged to make his or her own determination of materiality. Copies of the references are provided.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), it is hereby certified that each item in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office (copy enclosed) in counterpart Japanese application, JPN 230601-2004, mailed 9 January 2007, not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement (37 C.F.R. Section 1.97(e)). No petition fee is believed required, however, any fees associated with this communication may be made to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Date:

26 January 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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January 12, 2007

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BY FACSIMILE & COURIER  
(Enclosures by Courier)

6 JAN 16 2007

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JAN 16 2007

HOGAN & HARTSON LLC

Your Ref. 80450.0086.490 *um/ 355*

Our Case 1045220 (NS/eh)

Japanese Patent Application for  
INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE INCLUDING  
MEMORY ARRAY, AND METHOD FOR  
POWER-GATING IN INTEGRATED ...

Patent Appln. No. 230601/2004

USSN: 60/500,126: September 4, 2003 &

USSN: 10/776,103: February 11, 2004

United Memories, Inc. & Sony Corporation

DUE DATE: April 9, 2007

Dear Ms. Bruton:

This is a simple and prompt report of issuance of a first office action in connection with the above-identified application. The purpose of this simple report is (1) to meet the requirement for an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) regarding a corresponding U.S. application, if any, and (2) to enable you or your client to first consider the possibility of further prosecution of the subject application from a business standpoint, before incurring any further cost.

Please find below:

- (1) an office action issued in this application;
- (2) a copy of the following references cited therein:
  1. Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 09-106676
  2. Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 2002-25267
  3. Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 2000-293986
  4. Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 11-261400
  - A. Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 2003-347431

January 12, 2007

The following prior art document, which is not applied to the claimed invention, is shown in the office action;

(i) Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 2004-147175

We refrained from enclosing a copy of the prior art document. If you need a copy of the same, please let us know.

Please note that the office action was mailed January 9, 2007. Therefore, the response to the office action is due on or before April 9, 2007.

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application. The pending claims 1-35 correspond to the original claims 1-35. In the office action:

(1) Claims 1-35 stand rejected as obvious over the cited references 1-4; and

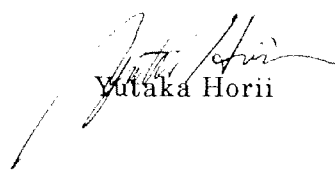
(2) Claims 1-35 stand rejected as anticipated by the earlier filed but later published Japanese Patent Application invention 2002-156144 (Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 2003-347431)

Our cost estimate for reporting and responding to the office action will range from approximately ¥150,000 to ¥250,000 including any disbursements. In addition, if necessary, the costs for English translation of the office action and the reference(s) would be incurred.

We will study the office action and the reference(s), prepare an English translation of the office action and the reference(s), if necessary, and report to you again within one month, unless otherwise instructed. In the event your instructions are to discontinue further prosecution of the subject application, please let us know to that effect within one week, to avoid further charges.

We should appreciate your acknowledging receipt of this letter by return facsimile.

Very truly yours,

  
Yutaka Horii

YH:eh

Encls. Copy of Office Action  
Copy of Cited References